

Notes: February 17, 2018

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Shabbat Shalom – Service Begins
2. God Bless America: *Prayer for America and it's Leadership*
3. Children's Song: *What You Sow Is What You Reap*
4. Children's Lesson: *Remember The Sabbath*
5. Children's Blessing and Dismissal to Class
6. Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer
7. Matovu
8. Drash – Cynthia Hudson - Wisdom
9. Name of God For the Week: *El-yon – Most High*
10. Liturgy
11. Prayer
12. Worship in Music and Dance
13. Rabbi Stephen's Message: *Jeremiah's Warning – Part 2*
14. Kiddush
15. Oneg: *Prepared by Oneg Team 3*
16. Torah Parsha Study: Terumah - Sh'mot (Exodus) 25:1 – 27:19
17. Next Weeks Parsha: Tetzaveh – Sh'mot 27:20-30:10

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Jeremiah's Warning, Part 2 – The Potter

Last week I talked about the 13 warnings to Israel as conveyed by Adonai through Jeremiah. I want to look at one more today...that of the potter:

**Jer 18:2** "Get up, and go down to the potter's house; there I will tell you more."

**Jer 18:3** So I went down to the house of the potter; and there he was, working at the wheels.

**Jer 18:4** Whenever a pot he made came out imperfect, the potter took the clay and made another pot with it, in whatever shape suited him.

**Jer 18:5** Then the word of Adonai came to me:

**Jer 18:6** "House of Isra'el, can't I deal with you as the potter deals with his clay? — says Adonai. Look! You, house of Isra'el, are the same in my hand as the clay in the potter's hand.

We are the clay and Adonai is the potter.

In the case of Jeremiah's prophecy to Israel as a nation, it is followed by this real warning...

**Jer 18:7** At one time, I may speak about uprooting, breaking down and destroying a nation or kingdom;

**Jer 18:8** but if that nation turns from their evil, which prompted me to speak against it, then I relent concerning the disaster I had planned to inflict on it.

**Jer 18:9** Similarly, at another time, I may speak about building and planting a nation or kingdom;

**Jer 18:10** but if it behaves wickedly from my perspective and doesn't listen to what I say, then I change my mind and don't do the good I said I would do that would have helped it.

And this is the judgment from Adonai...

**Jer 18:11** "So now, tell the people of Y'hudah and those living in Yerushalayim that this is what Adonai says: I am designing disaster for you, working out my plan against you. Turn, each of you, from his evil ways; improve your conduct and actions.'

Turn from your evil ways, improve your conduct.

“Return to me and I will return to you”

Adonai, as the potter is dealing with a lump of clay that He had formed, yet it didn't turn out in the “shape” he desired.

Yet it would be their stiffnecked response that would cause Adonai to respond in this manner.

**Jer 19:11** and say to them, 'Adonai-Tzva'ot says that this is how I will break this people and this city, just as one smashes a potter's vessel beyond the possibility of repair. The dead will be buried in Tofet, because there will be no space left for burial [*anywhere else*].

Rather than the potter reshaping the clay, He is going to break it, because it is beyond reshaping.

Sha'ul tackles the matter of Israel and her relationship with Adonai through history in his letter to Roman believers.

Keeping in mind what I shared with you last week and this week so far in Jeremiah, Sha'ul makes this statement...

**Rom 9:6** But the present condition of Isra'el does not mean that the Word of God has failed. For not everyone from Isra'el is truly part of Isra'el;

As is true at the time Sha'ul is writing, so to was the time of Jeremiah. The issue was not the Word of God.

In a similar manner I say, if it seems like Adonai's Word is contradicting itself, it is not the Word but the theology you are viewing His Word through that is the problem.

Similarly, it is not the Word, but the hardened heart of the people that is the problem.

The potter has complete control over his clay when it is still wet. As it begins to harden, the potter's control over his clay diminishes. He cannot reform it in the manner he want. As it continues to harden, it takes and maintains a certain form. Once the clay hardens, or sets, it can not be altered.

The Word of God has not failed; rather, the failure has been on the part of those **from Israel** who are **not truly part of Israel**. In his earlier discussion of this same issue at Romans 2:28-29,

**Rom 2:28** For the real Jew is not merely Jewish outwardly: true circumcision is not only external and physical.

**Rom 2:29** On the contrary, the real Jew is one inwardly; and true circumcision is of the heart, spiritual not literal; so that his praise comes not from other people but from God.

Sha'ul was speaking of individual Jews.

In Romans 9, Sha'ul's focus is on the Jewish nation as a whole, in its capacity as God's people, **Israel**, he introduces the concept of the faithful "remnant," an idea which found throughout the *Tanakh* and is reiterated by Sha'ul in this letter...

**Rom 9:27** But Yesha`yahu, referring to Isra'el, cries out, "Even if the number of people in Isra'el is as large as the number of grains of sand by the sea, only a remnant will be saved.

**Rom 9:28** For Adonai will fulfill his word on the earth with certainty and without delay."

and

**Rom 11:1** "In that case, I say, isn't it that God has repudiated his people?" Heaven forbid! For I myself am a son of Isra'el, from the seed of Avraham, of the tribe of Binyamin.

**Rom 11:2** God has not repudiated his people, whom he chose in advance. Or don't you know what the *Tanakh* says about Eliyahu? He pleads with God against Isra'el,

**Rom 11:3** "Adonai, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, and I'm the only one left, and now they want to kill me too!"

**Rom 11:4** But what is God's answer to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not knelt down to Ba`al."

**Rom 11:5** It's the same way in the present age: there is a remnant, chosen by grace.

**Rom 11:6** (Now if it is by grace, it is accordingly not based on legalistic works; if it were otherwise, grace would no longer be grace.)

In fact, the *Tanakh* warns that in certain cases of disobedience a person may be "cut off from among his people". We have one such example of Miryam in Numbers 12. That the notion was accepted in non-Messianic Judaism can be inferred from the fact that in the Mishna the well-known statement, "All Israel has a place in the world to come," (Sanhedrin 10:1, quoted more fully at 11:26a) is immediately followed by a list of Israelites who have no place in the world to come.

It should not be thought that God is quick to cast away his sons, meaning the Jewish people ([Exo 4:22](#)). Keeping in mind [Rom 8:14-15](#), [Rom 9:24-25](#) and [Rom 11:1-6](#), consider this passage from the Talmud:

"Abaye and Raba interpret the verse, 'You are sons (also children) of Adonai your God...' ([Deu 14:1](#)) in this way:

*'When you behave like sons you are called sons, if you do not behave like sons you are not called sons.' This is Rabbi Y'hudah's opinion. Rabbi Me'ir said: 'In both cases you are called sons, for it is said, "They are stupid sons" ([Jer 4:22](#)). Also it is said, "They are sons in whom there is no faith" ([Deu 32:20](#)); also, "... a seed of evildoers, sons who deal corruptly" ([Isa 1:4](#)); and also, "It shall come to pass that in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' it will be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.' " ([Hos 2:1](#) ([Hos 1:10](#)))' Why quote so many verses to make the point? So that if you say, 'They may indeed be called sons when they are stupid but not when they lack faith,' you are faced with the verse, 'They are sons in whom is no faith.' And if you say, 'They may be sons and lack faith, but if they serve idols they are not called sons,' there is the verse, '... a seed of evil-doers, sons who deal corruptly.' And if you say, 'They may be called sons when they deal corruptly, but not good sons,' then listen: 'It shall come to pass that in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it will be said to them, "You are sons of the living God." ' " (Kiddushin 36a)*

A transformation from disobedience to obedience.

A transformation from judged to redeemed

**Mat 19:24** Furthermore, I tell you that it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God."

**Mat 19:25** When the talmidim heard this they were utterly amazed. "Then who," they asked, "can be saved?"

**Mat 19:26** Yeshua looked at them and said, "Humanly, this is impossible; but with God everything is possible."

easier, not impossible, yet Adonai would need to be involved in order to make this happen.

How many of you remember Shayna?

*I spent the summer visiting my parents, going to Israel for the first time and being a camp counselor at a Messianic Jewish summer camp for teenagers. I started working for said camp and Ruach Israel in September (in administrative capacities). I am studying at the Messianic Jewish Theological Institute online and living at Ruach Israel's new young-adult community house in Boston.*

I bring her up to you, because she posted a thank you on Facebook last week for praying for her father who accepted Yeshua. Shayna comes from a mixed marriage of a Jewish father and non-Jewish yet believing mother. When I heard of what had happened, I emailed Shayna for more details, because I have met her father, talked with him and remembered little interest if any in the God of His people. Shayna has given me permission to share her father's journey and the arrival at his destination – Yeshua.

Shayna thanked everyone who was praying for her father. Unbenounced to Shayna's father, seeds were being planted by believers.

For some, their journey is short and direct, while for others it may last longer. In each case, regardless there is prayer before the journey even begins...

*My dad's interest in spiritual matters began to increase over the last 2-3 years. My dad's heart was softening during this time to the ideas of God, Messiah, and faith (and why these matter). I believe the softening was a result of the prayers of many people and HaShem hearing those prayers. Though my dad was not necessarily one to adamantly oppose "religion" (as he calls is) he was just simply never interested in the topic.*

Have you heard the saying "Just add water"

Adonai was taking a hard piece of clay and rather than breaking it, He added water. Not just any water, but water that brings forth life...

**Joh 4:13** Yeshua answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again,  
**Joh 4:14** but whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty again! On the contrary, the water I give him will become a spring of water inside him, welling up into eternal life!"

The clay has been made moldable again.

*His newfound interest became apparent when he started asking me and my mom questions (on his own) every so often (e.g. "do you really think that people only get to heaven by believing in this person named Jesus?"). Sometimes he would tell me, "Shayna, the next time you're home I want to talk with you about religion." My mom had started constantly praying before dinner (out-loud) and my dad slowly began including a request or two (healing for an ill friend or the like). My mom intentionally prayed in "Yeshua's Name" and not "Jesus' name" per the recommendation of a Messianic Jewish women at Ruach Israel.*

Pray first but also live in your testimony as a Messianic believer.

*Then...my dad decided to enter the workforce again (after having been "retired" for about 18 months). He found a job in Charlotte, NC and relocated within two months of accepting the offer. My mom stayed behind in Rhode Island until their home sold. This left my dad living alone in Charlotte for approximately 6 months. One day while on the phone with my dad, my mom mentioned Rabbi Sam Nadler's congregation (Hope of Israel). Within a few weeks, my dad started attending services BY HIMSELF EVERY WEEK. I was shocked, my mom was shocked and everyone we told was shocked. He came to really like Rabbi Sam early on because he found him to be very relatable (similar age, from Long Island NY, Jewish, included Yiddish words and phrases in conversations).*

Walk in faith and develop relationships.

*After the Rhode Island house sold, my parents found a home outside of Charlotte and they started attending services together every week. This was the first time that my parents had ever attend services together on a consistent basis. My dad listened to Rabbi Sam's sermons week after week, my mom would gently ask my dad questions about what he thought of the sermons afterwards and sometimes this led to good conversations about God.*

Encourage

*The positive feelings that my dad had towards Rabbi Sam were reciprocated. Rabbi Sam initiated one-on-one lunch and/or coffee dates with my dad. A solid friendship began to form - which was key to the whole equation. Eventually, Rabbi Sam and his wife started coming over to my parents' home for dinner every so often.*

And Grow

*Fast forward to last Sunday...My dad woke up with a few questions. The first of which about the difference between "Jesus" and "Yeshua." The former name was so ingrained in his mind and came with lots of negative "baggage." I would even go as far as saying it was a stumbling block that he had to overcome. Somehow, in just the last few months he began internalizing the name of Yeshua, which allowed him to see the Messiah in a new, fresh light. Though the difference in names had been explained to him before, I think his heart was in a new, more open place, ready to receive the Truth.*

And Grow Through Discipleship

*Rabbi Sam has committed to disciple my father as his faith journey continues!*

Yet when the clay is still wet, and it begins to harden, the potter adds water to his lump in order to keep it moldable. He continues to do so, until he is near completion.

Once the potter is satisfied with his creation, he puts it in the fire to remove any remaining moisture and harden the clay.

**Rom 9:20** Who are you, a mere human being, to talk back to God? Will what is formed say to him who formed it, "Why did you make me this way?"

**Rom 9:21** Or has the potter no right to make from a given lump of clay this pot for honorable use and that one for dishonorable?

**Rom 9:22** Now what if God, even though he was quite willing to demonstrate his anger and make known his power, patiently put up with people who deserved punishment and were ripe for destruction?

**Rom 9:23** What if he did this in order to make known the riches of his glory to those who are the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory —

Adonai took Shayna's father, added water and formed him for honorable use.

Which fits nicely into these verses Sha'ul shares just prior.

**Rom 8:28** Furthermore, we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with his purpose;

**Rom 8:29** because those whom he knew in advance, he also determined in advance would be conformed to the pattern of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers;

**Rom 8:30** and those whom he thus determined in advance, he also called; and those whom he called, he also caused to be considered righteous; and those whom he caused to be considered righteous he also glorified!